

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, and 19-22 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined. In addition, please add claim 26 and cancel claims 8, 18, and 24. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:
an upper, and
a sole structure attached to said upper which includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole including a compressible first support element located above a portion of said outsole and in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, and a lower surface of said outsole having a corresponding downward bevel in said lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, said downward bevel of said first support element being positioned above said downward bevel of said outsole.
2. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein said midsole includes a compressible second support element located in a back-medial corner of said sole structure, a compressible third support element located on a lateral side of said sole structure and forward of said first support element, and a compressible fourth support element located on a medial side of said sole structure and forward of said second support element.
3. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said support elements are connected by a common base.
4. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said downward bevel of said first support element is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

5. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel of said first support element forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in ~~the~~ a range of 30 to 60 degrees.

6. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 2, wherein said first support element is formed of a generally cylindrical wall, said wall having an exterior surface and an opposite interior surface, said interior surface defining an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said first support element.

7. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 6, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate attaching to said upper surface and said base plate attaching to said lower surface of said first support element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 1, wherein said downward bevel of said of said first support element departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

10. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper, and

a sole structure attached to said upper which that includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole defining a void extending through said sole structure and from a medial side to a lateral side of said sole structure, and said midsole including a compressible first support element with a columnar and vertically-projecting structure, said first support element being located within said void and in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, said first support element having a cylindrical configuration extending between upper and lower portions of the void, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-

medial and back-to-front direction, and a lower surface of said outsole having a corresponding downward bevel in said lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, said downward bevel of said first support element being positioned above said downward bevel of said outsole.

11. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said midsole includes a compressible second support element located in a back-medial corner of said sole structure, a compressible third support element located on adjacent a lateral side of said sole structure and forward of said first support element, and a compressible fourth support element located on adjacent a medial side of said sole structure and forward of said second support element.

12. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 11, wherein said second, third, and fourth support elements have a cylindrical configuration.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said downward bevel of said first support element departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said downward bevel of said first support element is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel of said first support element forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees.

16. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 10, wherein said first support element includes an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said first support element.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 16, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate attaching to said upper surface and said base plate attaching to said lower surface of said first support element.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear for receiving a foot of a wearer, said article of footwear comprising:

an upper, and

a sole structure attached to said upper which that includes a midsole and an outsole, said midsole defining a void extending through said sole structure and from a medial side to a lateral side of said sole structure, and said midsole including four compressible support elements with a columnar and vertically-projecting structure, each said support element having a columnar configuration being located within said void and extending between upper and lower portions of the void, a first support element of said support elements being located in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, a lower surface of said first support element having a downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, and a lower surface of said outsole having a corresponding downward bevel in said lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, said downward bevel of said first support element being positioned above said downward bevel of said outsole.

20. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said downward bevel of said first support element is generally directed toward a center of a calcaneus bone of the wearer.

21. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein a line extending in the direction of said downward bevel of said first support element forms an intersection with a longitudinal centerline of said footwear, said intersection forming an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees.

22. (Currently Amended) The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said downward bevel of said first support element departs from a horizontal plane to form an angle with said horizontal plane in the range of 5 to 10 degrees.

23. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said sole structure includes a heel plate and a base plate, said heel plate and said base plate attaching to said support elements.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 19, wherein said support elements include an exterior surface and an opposite interior surface, said interior surface defining an interior void that extends through an upper surface of said support elements.

26. (New) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to said upper, said sole structure comprising:

- a pair of plates that are spaced apart to define a void extending through said sole structure, said void extending from a medial side of said sole structure to a lateral side of said sole structure;
- a first support element located within said void and extending between said pair of plates, said first support element being positioned in a back-lateral corner of said sole structure, a lower surface of said first support element having a first downward bevel in a lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction;
- a second support element located within said void and extending between said pair of plates, said second support element being positioned in a back-medial corner of said sole structure;
- a third support element located within said void and extending between said pair of plates, said third support element being positioned adjacent said lateral side of said sole structure and forward of said first support element;
- a fourth support element located within said void and extending between said pair of plates, said fourth support element being positioned adjacent said medial side of said sole structure and forward of said second support element;

an outsole that forms a ground-contacting surface of said article of footwear, said outsole extending under said first support element and having a second downward bevel in said lateral-to-medial and back-to-front direction, said second downward bevel being positioned below said first downward bevel.